

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 USC §112 for inclusion of a term that lacked antecedent basis. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to remedy the antecedent basis issue. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding §112 rejections against claims 1-8 be withdrawn.

Several of the claims stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) over at least one of Pasbrig, Diry, Keller or Cantoni. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to make it clear that the fuel filter assembly includes a fuel pump positioned in the filter assembly housing. Since none of the cited references appear to show or suggest such an integrated heated filter and pump assembly, Applicants respectfully request that the §102(b) rejections against claim 1 and any of its dependent claims be withdrawn.

Claim 9 has been amended to make it clear that the engine includes an electronic control module in control communication with the electrical heater element of the fuel filter assembly. Since none of the cited references appear to show or suggest a heated filter assembly in control communication with an electronic control module, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding §102(b) rejections against claim 9 and any of its dependent claims be withdrawn.

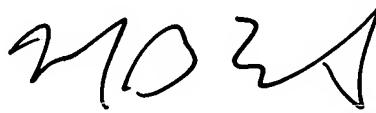
Claim 17 has been amended to make it clear that the activation and de-activation of the heater element is controlled by an electronic control module. Since none of the cited references appear to show or suggest Applicants' claimed method of heating fuel, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding §102(b) rejections against claim 17 be withdrawn.

Several of the claims stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Pasbrig in view of Keller or Baker. Since all of the pending claims include at least one feature not shown

or suggested by Pasbrig and Keller or Baker, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding §103(a) rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the amending changes made and arguments submitted, this application is believed to be in condition of allowance of claims 1-20. However, if the examiner believes that some additional minor clarification would put this application in even better condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (812) 333-5355 in order to hasten the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M B McNeil', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael B. McNeil
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